**Mud-Built Houses in the Country**

4201. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of total villages in India;

(b) the number of mud-built houses and brick-built houses and the number of those villages that have mud-built houses only; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme to improve the living conditions of people living in mud-houses and construct brick-built houses for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) As per Census of India 1991, the number of villages in India is 6,34,253.

(b) As per the Census of India 1991, there are 4,14,37,834 mud built houses and 1,95,95,064 brick built houses. Data on the number of villages that have only mud build houses is not available in the Census of India, 1991.

(c) Government of India have launched a Rural Housing Scheme in 1993-94 to supplement the efforts of State/UT Governments in Rural Housing for people below poverty line and weaker sections of the society. Under this scheme, assistance would also be available for upgradation of dwelling units. An amount of Rs. 30 crores has been provided for this scheme in the current year's budget.

**World Bank Suggestion for Rural Development Programme**

4202. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested that guidance be taken from International Organisations like UNDP, etc. for formulation and change and adaptation of present rural development programmes;

(b) whether it is a fact that some UNDP officials have visited Ministry of Rural Development to Advise on rural development programme;

(c) if so, what are the changes proposed;

(d) whether there is insistence that present commitment to rural development be lessened or diluted;

(e) whether Government have accepted programmes and funds from UNDP on such conditions;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether State Governments will be taken into confidence before any far-reaching changes are made in the existing pattern of funding and involvement of outside organisations in formulation of rural development programme; and

(h) whether the NIRD has been asked to comment on such programmes and if so, the reaction of NIRD thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (h) A project proposal for capacity building for local governments and decentralised administration in support of sustainable development has been received from UNDP, New Delhi. A UNDP team of officials also visited the Ministry of Rural Development to discuss this proposal. The proposal is under preliminary stage of examination. A decision will be taken on the proposal in accordance with the procedures and guidelines for externally-aided projects as prescribed by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.